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An Act Concerning Global Climate Change
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Chairman Fontana, Chairman Fonfara, and Committee Members;

My name is Doug Rode, Principal and Managing Director of Hydrogen Safety, LLC. I appreciate this opportunity to address your Committee on this very important subject. Although there are and most likely will always be skeptics about the science concerning Global Warming, the indisputable fact is that each one of us has to be concerned about the carbon footprint and emissions we create.

Since we were formed in 2000, the business focus of Hydrogen Safety, LLC, which is located in East Hartford, is on expediting the commercialization of Hydrogen technologies through the effective use of prudent risk management strategies. We strongly advocate the use of Hydrogen as the ultimate clean energy carrier, which is an important concept when using renewable energies such as the sun or wind as primary energy sources. The public is beginning to appreciate that Hydrogen is used to provide electric power and waste heat through fuel cells and increasingly to power our vehicles instead of gasoline. However, few people realize that billions of cubic feet per year of Hydrogen are used, with few incidents, in a wide variety of industries as a clean process gas. The drivers to use Hydrogen continue to be based upon a desire to realize its environmental benefits of lowering greenhouse emissions while also helping provide security of energy in terms of both availability and cost.

Although the advent of a "Hydrogen-Based Economy" is at our doorstep, it is our experience that the public misconceptions about Hydrogen are important to dispel before wide scale acceptance is possible. Public safety and building officials also need to have increased awareness and knowledge of how to use Hydrogen safely. In the case of distributed generation through fuel cells, the end users or hosts must understand how Hydrogen use can provide them with tangible financial benefits through increased efficiencies, lower operating cost, and more reliable power.

Especially for Connecticut the prospects for substantial economic growth as new jobs are created are extremely high as long as we are steadfast in committing resources to compete globally. It is our premise that leveraging Connecticut's reputation for insurance will give us a market niche that benefits all the many companies involved in the Hydrogen supply chain.

Thank you for this opportunity to address your Committee and if time permits I am available to answer any questions.